

Case 2791

***Chelifer museorum* Leach, 1817 (currently *Cheiridium museorum*; Arachnida, Pseudoscorpionida): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the specific name of *Chelifer museorum* Leach, 1817 which is consistently used for a common, often synanthropic, pseudoscorpion recorded from Europe, Africa, India and North America. *C. museorum* is the type species of *Cheiridium* Menge, 1855 but the name is threatened by the unused senior synonym *Chelifer nepoides* Hermann, 1804.

1. *Chelifer nepoides* Hermann (1804, p. 116) was described from specimens which are no longer available, collected near Strasbourg, France.

2. *Chelifer museorum* Leach (1817, p. 50, fig. 4) was described from specimens collected in Great Britain. One syntype specimen is lodged in the collection of the Natural History Museum, London. *Chelifer museorum* was designated the type species of *Cheiridium* Menge (1855, p. 36) by the subsequent designation of Simon (1879, p. 43).

3. *Chelifer nepoides* Hermann, 1804 was first regarded as a synonym of *Chelifer museorum* Leach, 1817 by Tömösváry (1882, p. 210), who adopted *museorum* as the valid name. This has been followed by all subsequent authors and *nepoides* Hermann, 1804 has not been mentioned in the primary literature since 1882.

4. *Cheiridium museorum* (Leach, 1817) has been cited in the literature on numerous occasions (see, for example, Weygoldt, 1969, pp. 23, 26, 41, 42, 74, 108, 110; Jones, 1980, map 13 and Legg & Jones, 1988, pp. 91–92). A representative list of seven additional important works, dating from 1924 to 1974, in which the name *museorum* Leach, 1817 has been used is held by the Commission Secretariat.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to suppress the specific name *nepoides* Hermann, 1804, as published in the binomen *Chelifer nepoides*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Cheiridium* Menge, 1855 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Simon (1879) *Chelifer museorum* Leach, 1817;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *museorum* Leach, 1817, as published in the binomen *Chelifer museorum* (specific name of the type species of *Cheiridium* Menge, 1855);

- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *nepoides* Hermann, 1804, as published in the binomen *Chelifer nepoides* and as suppressed in (1) above.

References

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